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STATINTL

Classic CIA Failure

Allen Dulles, former head of the CIA, has joined the White House in denying statements by former Vice President Nixon that President Kennedy was told during the 1960 election campaign about U. S. plans to support an invasion of Cuba. This hits at Nixon's veracity. Still the truth of the matter is that, when Kennedy was supposed to have been receiving foreign affairs briefings during the campaign, he should have been informed of Cuban plans. And there should have been no U. S. "support of an invasion of Cuba" under this or the former administration which was not strong enough to be effective.

Perhaps the Eisenhower Administration should have curbed the super-secret CIA in its support of Cuban invasion plans. But certainly if the United States was to be involved in such plans, it should have been sufficiently involved not to end up with both a moral question and a military fiasco on its hands. As a member of that administration Mr. Nixon would have been wise not to have brought up again this combined folly and failure into which the Eisenhower administration let the CIA lead it. Furthermore, if President Kennedy only found

out about this ill-advised and inadequately supported adventure after he was elected or after he was in office, he should have stopped it or strengthened it.

From the standpoint of the prestige of this nation, it is evident that the less said by Republicans or Democrats about this "Cuban invasion," which hardly attained the stage of an invasion, the better. It constituted the classic case in which CIA fumbled in secret to make a spectacle of America in public. The United States should have refused to support such an invasion of a neighboring country or it should have put sufficient power behind that invasion not to let it be bogged down in the Bay of Pigs.

The one thing which needs to be remembered about this tragi-comic "invasion," supported by the CIA's cloak and dagger boys, is that no administration should allow this secret agency to engage in the collection of intelligence and secret military operations at the same time. In Cuba, it failed in both. The important thing now is not to let it ever act again in secrecy to humiliate the United States in the eyes of the world.